

REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. Applicants request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 1-11 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 7 and 11 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification as filed. The specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. The term "ketone ring" has been amended to read "ketone group" which is consistent with the remainder of the specification and claims. No new matter has been introduced by the instant amendments.

Claim 1-3, 7, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards s the invention.

The claims, as amended, are fully compliant with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, including the requirements of §112, second paragraph.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph, rejections and reconsideration of claims 1-3, 7 and 11

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being allegedly anticipated by Tokunaga, et al., *Tetrahedron Letters*, 42(2001) 3865-3868.

It is submitted that the rejection in view of Tokunaga, et al., *Tetrahedron Letters* should be withdrawn on the basis of the present application's priority date of July 2, 2001. In particular, as noted in Applicants' Declaration and Oath filed on October 22, 2002, the present application claims priority to JP 2000-216457 (filed July 17, 2000) and PCT/JP01/05691 (filed July 2, 2001). Whereas, the cited reference Tokunaga, et al., *Tetrahedron Letters* has a publication date of February 2, 2000.

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.55, Applicant submits herewith a verified translation of the priority document, Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-216457, filed July 17, 2000. Such translation is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The present application is clearly supported by the priority document, as evidenced by the translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-216457, filed July 17, 2000. As such, the cited reference Tokunaga, et al., *Tetrahedron Letters* is overcome.

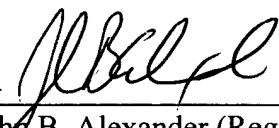
Withdrawal of each of the §102 rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fee be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 30, 2004



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